



**For Immediate Release
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Supervisor Hudgins Challenges Colleagues, Residents to Contribute Tax Savings to Homeless Initiative

On April 26, 2011, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors adopted its Fiscal Year 2012 Budget establishing a Tax Rate of \$1.07 / \$100.00, a full two cents lower than the tax rate recommended by County Executive Anthony Griffin. Each cent of the tax rate is estimated to be valued at \$19.3 million. Hence the \$1.07 Real Estate Tax Rate will realize approximate \$40 million less revenue for under and unfunded County programs.

Based on her calculations, Supervisor Hudgins' household will save \$116 as a result of the tax rate cut that the Board of Supervisors enacted with the adoption of the FY 2012 Budget. Citing that there are still numerous items that the County is unable to fund, and that a major initiative, the Initiative to Prevent and End Homelessness, which has short and long-term funding challenges, Supervisors Hudgins would rather help fund the unmet needs of the County.

"I am convinced that if we can tell our citizens just how much we can accomplish together when we each are willing to contribute a small increase of one or two pennies of our tax rate, there are many out there who will understand and join in the shared responsibility to support the many needs of our community," Hudgins stated.

Hudgins will contribute her property tax savings to the Fairfax-Falls Church Homelessness Partnership. She asked her colleagues to join her by simply contributing the difference realized from the current rate of \$1.09 and the adopted FY2012 rate of \$1.07.

Supervisor Hudgins noted, "I have chosen the homeless programs because I see the struggles of those in need for housing and all the perils families are facing each day from the window of my office. Imagine what could happen if we each made the same request to our places of worship, or with our offices, housing advocates, and social networks," she continued.

Since the Board has not asked everyone to increase the tax rate on their property and most of the Citizens Budget Committees called for setting the rate at \$1.09 to meet the many needs in the County, Hudgins is asking those that were able to accept a self-imposed tax increase and give the savings they will realize to the homeless initiative. "While it isn't a budget saver for all our needs, I can make an impact on a Board priority that we have yet to figure out how to fund in the long term," she said as she concluded.

Checks can be payable to the Fairfax-Falls Church Homelessness Partnership, Fairfax County Office to Prevent & End Homelessness, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22033.

Supervisor Catherine M. Hudgins is the Chair of the Fairfax County Housing and Community Development Committee, Chair of the Fairfax County Human Services Committee, and a member of the Governing Board of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Partnership.

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